
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1981 No. 1576**HOUSING, ENGLAND AND WALES****The Housing (Means of Escape from Fire in Houses in Multiple Occupation) Order 1981**

Made - - - - - 2nd November 1981
Laid before Parliament 12th November 1981
Coming into Operation 3rd December 1981

The Secretary of State for the Environment, as respects England, and the Secretary of State for Wales, as respects Wales, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 147 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 24 to, the Housing Act 1980 (a), and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following order:—

Citation and commencement

1. This order may be cited as the Housing (Means of Escape from Fire in Houses in Multiple Occupation) Order 1981, and shall come into operation on 3rd December 1981.

Description of houses

2.—(1) The houses described in paragraph (2) of this article are those specified for the purposes of section 147 of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 24 to, the Housing Act 1980.

(2) The houses referred to in the foregoing paragraph are those which comprise at least three storeys (excluding any storey lying wholly or mainly below the floor level of the principal entrance to the house) and in which the combined floor area of all storeys exceeds 500 square metres.

Definition

3. For the purposes of this order, the “combined floor area” includes the area of any staircase.

John Stanley,
Minister for Housing and Construction,
Department of the Environment.

Signed by authority of
the Secretary of State

27th October 1981.

Nicholas Edwards,
Secretary of State for Wales.

2nd November 1981.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

Under section 147 of, and Schedule 24 to, the Housing Act 1980 local authorities have powers to require houses in multiple occupation to be provided with means of escape from fire. This order provides that the exercise by local authorities of these powers shall be mandatory where the house in multiple occupation is of at least 3 storeys (excluding any storey lying wholly or mainly below the floor area of the principal entrance to the house), with a combined floor area of all storeys in excess of 500 square metres.

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